

Rhode Island

1. Lead Poisoning Prevention Act

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-24.6-1 to 23-24.6-27 (1996).

Primary components of the law include an expanded childhood lead screening and diagnosis program, an environmental management and primary prevention program, and mechanisms for funding. Specifics of the screening component include:

- requiring all physicians to screen children under 6 years at designated intervals;
- requiring licensed child care providers, nursery schools and kindergartens to obtain evidence of screening for lead poisoning for each child;
- that all samples be analyzed at a Department of Health (DOH) lab;
- that cases diagnosed with EBL be reported to DOH; and
- requires DOH to certify all laboratories performing blood lead analysis.

Specifics of the environmental management and primary prevention component includes:

- DOH to promulgate regulations regarding lead inspections, including notification of inspections to owners/occupants and DOH;
- all preschools, day care, nursery schools, and kindergartens by lead free or lead safe as a condition of licensure;
- inspections being authorized as part of treatment and follow-up for lead poisoned children;
- DOH to promulgate regulations for lead hazard reductions, clean-up and containment, including safety requirements for workers, and the creation of at least one lead paint waste repository;
- all lead inspectors and lead hazard reduction workers be licensed or certified and training courses be certified by DOH;
- disclosure of lead hazards to potential buyers or leasers of a property;
- requiring DOH to develop educational materials for Realtors.

Specific of the funding component include:

- DOH laboratories to bill and be reimbursed by third parties;
- DOH creating fees to operate licensure and certification program.

1. Occupational Health Lead Protection Act

R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-24.7-1 to 23-24.7-2 (1996).

Requires that any contractor funded by the state be responsible for compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations.

2. General requirements relating to the safe and sanitary maintenance of parts of dwellings and dwelling units - lead-based paint

R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-24.3-10 (1991).

Prohibits the use of LBP in dwellings with surfaces accessible to children under 6 years, and provides for inspection and abatement procedures for emergency situations. Specifics of the statute include:

- defining "lead-based substance" as materials containing lead in excess of 0.5% of lead by weight;
- provisions for emergency abatements, if child occupying the property is suffering lead poisoning.